

Bogotá D.C.

May 12, 2008

U.S. Embassy

CRIME VICTIMS ASSISTANCE CENTER PROVIDES SERVICES IN BOGOTÁ



U.S. Ambassador to Colombia William Brownfield during the opening ceremony of the new Crime Victim's Assistance Center (CAV) in Bogotá.

On March 12, 2009 in a project led by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), a new Crime Victim's Assistance Center (CAV, *for its acronym in Spanish*) opened in Bogotá.

This Center provides information, accompanies clients to their hearings and refers victims to supplementary services on homicide cases, all free of charge. The opening ceremony was led by William Brownfield, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia; Mario Iguaran, Colombia's Prosecutor General and Hernando Torres, President of the Superior Council of Judicature.

The CAV, located in Paloquemao's judicial compound in Bogotá, is staffed with a prosecutor, three full-time officials and over 70 volunteers from law schools in Bogotá and remittal programs to psychological counseling.

The U.S. Government granted \$360,000 to the Center. Of that sum DOJ provided \$160,000 allotted to the designing, remodeling and refitting of the facility. The remaining \$200,000, provided by USAID, was destined to the purchase of computer software, technical assistance and staff training. This is part of the U.S. Government's initiative to support the implementation of the new accusatory judicial system in Colombia.

CAV RESULTS

Since its opening, the Center has helped 108 family members of victims of felony crimes:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Homicide | 79 |
| Tentative homicide | 17 |
| Personal injuries | 1 |
| Abortion | 1 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 108 |



Room in the new CAV facilities where a group of volunteers work.

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